

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVI NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2018

EBARC Meetings

December 14, 7:30 p.m.
"FT8 & Raspberry Pi"
Jack Burris, K6JEB



EBARC meets this month at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, 670
Applan Way, El Sobrante (enter parking opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.)

The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date,
time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, at 384-4233.

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The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Jan. issue: Thu., Dec. 27th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

Temporary Meeting Place!

El Sobrante United Methodist Church
670 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Parking entrance is opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.
GPS coordinates: 37.981938, -122.294720

December 14th EBARC Meeting Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

Did you ever wish you could roam around your QTH and still take part in some serious HF fun while still maintaining something called a "normal" life? Did you ever try to go portable, and once you got to the destination, you wanted to "untether" from the not-so-wireless wireless setup you hauled out there?

On December 14th, in his rescheduled talk, Jack Burris, K6JEB, will show us how he solved these issues and more, still keeping his power and monetary budgets low. Hint: this involves the use of the popular single board computer, the "Raspberry Pi."

We'll also count ballots and install 2019 EBARC Executive Committee members!

President's Message Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH

With my last meeting as President on December 14th, I want to thank the Board for all their help and support this past year. We had many great meetings and discussions.

I also want to thank all the Members who make EBARC such a fun and rewarding club. May 2019 be just as fun and productive.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to EBARC members and their families!

General Meeting Minutes Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: The Friday, 2 November 2018 general EBARC meeting in the El Sobrante United Methodist Church meeting room started about 7:30 p.m. Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, began with running through the nominees for the 2019 EBARC Executive Committee positions. Craig Hauger, KI6EMD, offered to run (with Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU) for 2nd V.P. - Hospitality. Both were nominated from the floor, as were the nominees for the other offices, as published previously in *The Blown Fuse*. Nominations were then closed. Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, said ballots will be mailed out within a week, per EBARC bylaws.

Program: Jack Burris, K6JEB, was scheduled for a demo of FT8 on a Raspberry Pi. This has been postponed to next month's meeting, along with our Holiday Party.

Hospitality: Feed the kitty!

Public Events/Education: Sharon recounted how a calendar snafu at the Oakland fire station location for the last quarterly VE session of 2018 caused it not to happen. All four dates for 2019 are locked in: The 4th

Sunday in January, April, July and October. They will be published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Announcements: Sharon noted the need to move on a plan for our stored equipment at Jim Fast's house, as we may not have use of it much longer. No proposals, as we didn't have a Board meeting due to lack of a quorum. A discussion followed.

Peter suggesting moving to much lighter gear to bring to Field Day. Less storage space would be required, and equipment would be easier to set up and take down. He also suggested moving to solar/battery power and dropping our gas generator.

Another suggestion: Sell off a lot of our used-only-once-a-year Club equipment and rely on member-supplied gear at Field Day.

Ron Smith suggested that we need to keep "club antennas," and members could provide the other gear. Storage of large antennas, tents, etc. is still a problem. Where, and at what cost?

Another suggestion: Have some club gear on hand to back up member gear. Also have a written guide for setting up our gear on the Field Day site, to help newer members to be more useful.

Sharon suggested moving on doing an inventory of all our gear at Jim Fast's house. Mathison offered to co-ordinate the inventory, beginning in January.

Attendance: There were 12 roster signers, 11 were EBARC members. At least 3 others attended.

Closing: After introductions, the membership meeting was adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 14, 2018.

Inventory of EBARC Equipment

In January, there will be an inventory of the EBARC Field Day equipment currently stored at silent key Jim Fast's house. This is the first step in deciding how to equip and run future Field Days and then to plan for storing the necessary club equipment. Please contact Mathison Ott at mathisono@gmail.com to volunteer. He will set a suitable date & time.

Sodja's Donation to EBARC Martin Rothfield, W6MRR

We received a satellite station as a donation from Howard Sodja, W6SHP, as he was downsizing his QTH. Howard is an amazing guy. You'll be hearing more about him. The station allowed Howard to QSO over VHF/UHF satellite.

The station is based on pairs of switchable left and right hand polarized Lindenblad antennas. There's a pair for each UHF and VHF. The station also includes a Yaesu FT-736 transceiver. This allows for full duplex with UHF or VHF uplink/downlink. There are also UHF and VHF power/VSWR meters, power amps, lightning arrestors, and an UHF cavity filter and preamplifier.

The included software came via 3.5" floppies and is based on an early Windows vintage. There's lots of great modern satellite software but the FT-736 has first generation CAT control that's not supported. The solution is an emulator to allow the software to think it's talking to a more modern FT-847. I'm working on that.

While the station would be too cumbersome to set up for Field Day, the receiver certainly could be used with a portable antenna. It would be best installed in a club station. In the meantime, I have it in storage. Howard donated it to us to give back to the ham

community. It would be great to make the most of it. We just need the club station.

4Cs / EBARC Xmas Luncheon

The 4Cs/EBARC Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 8th at Denny's, 11344 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. The party will be from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If you signed up with Burgie Jones, KE6MSF, 510-964-1476, Don't forget to attend!

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Public Service."
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The test dates for 2019 are Jan. 27, Apr 28, Jul 28, and Oct 27. The fee for 2019 is still \$15. Info: 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from Kathy Branstetter, KI6TZE, kathbran@well.com, www.cocoacs.org, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebarc.w6cus@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2018 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President.....	384-4233
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	684-6543
Ken Fowler, KO6NO, 2 nd VP - Hospitality.....	222-0830
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary / Twitter	528-1144
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	707-557-5521
Member-at-Large	
Member-at-Large	

2018 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee; Jack Burris, K6JEB.....	415-305-2547
Club Station Manager; Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU.....	385-4044
Field Day & Education; Ken Fowler, KO6NO	222-0830
Webmaster, Facebook, & Meetup; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR	705-1199
Social & Digital Committees Chair	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian	

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES(ACS) Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session (traffic)	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
9 a.m. Talk Net	Mo-Fr	0900 (PL 100.0-)	145.230
Youth Net	Sat	1400 (PL 100.0-)	145.230

ACS West CoCoCo: Kathy Branstetter, KI6TZE, kathbran@well.com.
Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s. ACS details are at www.cocoacs.org

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